

IV. REMARKS

Applicants have considered the Office Action with mailing date of June 12, 2007.

Claims 1- 20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended; and claims 7 – 9 and 13 – 20 have been cancelled from further consideration in this application.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Office. The present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Office.

In the Office Action, FIG. 1 is objected to with respect to reference numerals “16” and “28” being used to designate the interconnecting gate, which is an AND gate. Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 8, 10 – 15 and 17 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0042933, hereinafter “Hill”. Claims 3 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hill. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of these original claims and other claims in one or more subsequent patent application that claim(s) priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. OBJECTION OF DRAWINGS

The Office has objected to FIG. 1 because reference numerals “16” and “28” were both used to designate the interconnecting gate where the interconnecting gate is an AND gate. FIG. 1 has been amended per the Office’s suggestion to include a dotted circle around logic gates 30 and 32. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn.

B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Applicants submit that currently amended claim 1 incorporates allowable subject matter of claim 9 and subject matter of intervening claims 7 and 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and allow the claim.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2 – 6 and 10 – 12, are allowable since they are based on allowable subject matter in claim 1 and further on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicant will forego addressing each of these rejections individually, but reserves the right to do so should it become necessary. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw its rejection.

V. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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